

Amendments to the Specification:

(018.1) Figure 9 is a top view of Figure 3.

(019) Figure ~~10~~ 9 is a cross-sectional view of a completed structure using the preform shown in Figure 3.

(020) Figure ~~11~~ 10 is a perspective view of the preform having a convex curvature.

(021) Figure ~~12~~ 11 is a cross-sectional view of the die assembly shown in Figure 7 illustrating a second method of stretching the preform to obtain the curvature shown in Figure 10.

(022) Figure ~~13~~ 12 is a perspective view of the preform having a concave curvature.

(023) Figure ~~14~~ 13 is a cross-sectional view of the die assembly shown in Figure 7 illustrating a third method of stretching the preform to obtain the curvature shown in Figure 12.

(024) Figure ~~15~~ 14 is a perspective view of a second L shaped preform.

(025) Figure ~~16~~ 15 is a perspective view of the preform shown in Figure 14 formed into a curved shape.

(028) Referring to Figures, if the part is to be simply curved shape as shown in Figure 3, the darted preform 10 is folded as shown in Figure ~~8~~ 14 Cactus with the legs 12 and 14 bent over on to leg ~~17~~ 14. The preform 10 is placed in a sine-wave shaped die assembly 40 having matched die halves 41 and 42 with mating sign-wave shaped forming surfaces 43 and 44 respectively. The sign-wave pattern on forming surface 43 is tapered from ends 45 and 46 on die half 41 and the forming surface 44 is tapered from ends 47 and 48 on forming surface 44. What the sine wave forming accomplishes is a stretching that is zero at the end of bottom portion 17 and a maximum at the end of bottom portion 16.

(030) If the completed preform requires curvature in a convex shape as illustrated in Figure ~~11~~ 10 and designated by numeral 10B, the preform 10 is folded the shape as illustrated in Figure ~~12~~ 11 with the legs 12 and 14 folded together and portions 16 and 17 folded together. As illustrated the die halves 41A and 42A have forming 43A and 44A. Stretching would only from the center outward toward the end of the legs 12 and 14 where stretching would be at a maximum.

Application No.: 10/849,683

Response to Office Action of January 19, 2006

Attorney Docket: NORTH-601B

(031) If on the other hand, the preform final shape shown in Figure 13~~12~~, and designated by numeral 10C, is desired, then, as illustrated in Figure 12~~13~~, the legs 12 and 14, and portions 16 and 17 are brought together as in the previous example, and placed in the die assembly 40B having die halves 41B and 42B with forming surfaces 43B and 44B. However, stretching is accomplished by placing the folded preform 10 in the sine-wave dies such stretching of the legs 12 and 14 is a minimum at there ends and becomes a maximum at the center. Thereafter, stretching of the bottom portions 16 and 17 is held constant